

Claims

1. Biologically pure Serpens spp. strain HBL-112.
2. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing and/or treating Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis in ruminants comprising a therapeutically effective amount of Serpens spp. bacteria or Serpens spp. bacterin and/or an immunologically active portion thereof and/or an antigenic epitope cross-reactive with Serpens spp. and a veterinerally acceptable diluent or a carrier.
3. The composition of claim 2 wherein said ruminant has symptoms of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis.
4. The composition of claim 2 wherein said ruminant has no symptoms of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis.
5. The composition of claim 2 comprising Serpens spp. strain HBL-112 or Serpens spp. strain HBL-112 bacterin.
6. The composition of claim 2 comprising Serpens flexibilis or Serpens flexibilis bacterin.
7. A method of preventing and/or treating Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis in ruminants comprising administering to the ruminant a therapeutically effective amount of Serpens spp. bacteria or Serpens spp. bacterin and/or an immunologically active portion thereof and/or an antigenic epitope cross-reactive with Serpens spp..
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said ruminant has symptoms of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein said ruminant has no symptoms of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis.
10. The method of claim 7 wherein Serpens spp. strain HBL-

with an antibody selected from the group comprising the Serpens genus and detecting antigen in said sample which bind to said antibody.

16. A diagnostic kit for use in a method according to claim 14 for determination of the presence of PDD antibodies said kit comprising antigen and one or more binding partners.

17. The kit of claim 16 wherein reagents for sample preparation and reagents for detection of bound antibody are included.

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